September/October 1992 Volume 17, Number 5

News for You

A summary of recent news stories from the University of California, San Francisco

UCSF

Smoking Costs California Big Bucks

Cigarette smoking — a major cause of illness and premature death — is taking a heavy economic toll as well.

In California alone, smoking costs more than $7.6 billion a year in healthcare expenditures and lost productivity due to disease and early death, according to Dorothy Rice of the Institute for Health & Aging at the UCSF School of Nursing. The cost of the adverse health effects of smoking amounts to $256 a year per Californian, or $1,543 per smoker.

According to Rice, in this state alone, nearly 5 million people, including 220,000 adolescents, still smoke cigarettes. And one in five deaths is attributable to smoking-related diseases.

"One way to document and assess the effect of smoking of the state is to translate into economic terms the human suffering, illness, premature mortality and productivity loss caused by smoking," states the 200-page report co-authored by Wendy Max, also of the Institute. "Cost estimates of smoking translate the adverse health effects of smoking into dollar terms, the universal language of decision-makers and the policy arena."

Using risk factors for smoking-related diseases and deaths and state-supplied data on hospital and nursing home expenditures, Rice and Max estimated the direct and indirect costs of smoking for each of California's 58 counties.

"The cost of smoking in California is too high," says Rice. "If we project the cost to the whole nation it would be at least 10 times higher — more than $75 billion a year."

U.S. Health Care in Pretty Sick State

UCSF researchers have found in four separate studies that this country's present healthcare system does not provide enough basic health for its citizens, including women, poor children and American Indians. All studies indicate that changes must be made, and made soon, if this nation is to reverse an alarming medical decline.

- More than 12 million U.S. children — one out of five — do not receive adequate preventive medical care. And poor children are particularly vulnerable. A team led by UCSF pediatrician Robert S. Peter found that Medicaid does not ensure poor children access to the same healthcare providers and continuity of care that is available to children with families of higher incomes. As a result, many of these youngsters miss out on basic preventive care, including immunizations, well-baby checkups, eye and hearing tests, and blood testing for such problems as anemia and lead poisoning.
- The American health system is incredibly out of touch with the needs of women, according to a new report titled "The Obstetrician/Gynecologist in the 21st Century." The report, released by a panel at a conference last November, was convened under the auspices of the Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation. UCSF's Nancy Milliken co-chaired the national panel of 40 women's health specialists and advocates, which calls for universal access to comprehensive care for all women and greater sensitivity, in particular to the needs of poor women and women of color.
- A UCSF report paints a grim picture of health for American Indians in California — unmet medical needs, high risks of premature mortality, late care for pregnant women and infants, and diseases and death caused by tobacco and alcohol. The report, prepared by UCSF's Trude Bennett, was mandated by Congress and funded by the Indian Health Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. It calls for "aggressive public health action" to reverse this troubling trend.
- Medical schools must shift their emphasis from high tech medicine to the basic healthcare needs of the American public. So says an article written by members of Health of the Public. Co-directed by UCSF's Jonathan Showstack, Health of the Public is located in 17 universities and medical schools in the U.S. and Canada. The article states that skyrocketing health expenses and unequal access to health care have become the focus of political debate, yet academic health centers have made, at best, half-hearted attempts to interest their students in, or prepare them for, careers in primary care.

Bonnie Toman

UCSF Wins 22 Medals at Transplant Games

While the world's greatest athletes were gathering in Barcelona in July, another group of remarkable champions were competing in Los Angeles.

This year's U.S. Transplant Games held at UCLA drew 850 participants from around the country, including 190 from all over California competing as "Team California," led by UCSF transplant rehabilitation coordinator Trish Painter.

UCSF was represented by 37 participants — the largest single contingent at the games — 24 kidney transplant recipients, 11 liver recipients, 1 lung and 1 bone marrow, who took 22 medals in gold, silver and bronze.

The annual games, sponsored by the National Kidney Foundation and two pharmaceutical firms, have become a symbol of the success of organ transplants, as former invalids vigorously compete in events that include track and field, swimming, tennis, running, cycling, golf and table tennis.

UCSF has served as a major transplant center for Northern California for some 20 years with transplant programs for liver, kidney, pancreas-kidney, heart, and lung. The UCSF Kidney Transplant Service has performed over 4,000 kidney transplants, more than any other center in the world.

For further information on transplants, call Amy Peele at 476-4644.

One of the 22 UCSF winners: liver recipient Paul Yang of Milpitas with his son. Paul won the bronze for the 1500-meter speed walk.

In Brief

Mount Zion Community Meeting on "SEIR"

About 75 people asked questions and gave input during a lively July community meeting concerning the 1992 "Subsequent" Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) which is being drafted due to changes in proposed construction at Mount Zion Hospital. Many questions were raised during the 3½-hour meeting.

The SEIR supplements the original EIR approved in 1990. The principal proposed changes include current plans to keep the Pavilion building, located at 2356 Sutter, as an Interim Cancer Center; acquire land to construct a research center, medical office space and parking originally planned for the Pavilion site; and replace the existing two-story outpatient services building at 1600 Divisadero with a new five-story outpatient cancer center.

UCSF administrators say the proposed changes are necessary to create a National Cancer Institute (NCI) designated Comprehensive Cancer Center (see story below).

A "formal" public hearing is scheduled for sometime in September. For further information, call Community Relations at 476-3206.

In other Community Relations news, Steve Neuberger has joined the department as its new director. Former chief lobbyist for Mayor Art Agnos and onetime political director for United Public Employees Local 790, Neuberger is working with neighborhood groups and leaders to provide feedback to UCSF officials on community issues and the campus' Long Range Development Plan.

Green Light from NCI

The National Cancer Institute has approved and funded a three-year, $525,000 grant enabling UCSF to proceed with plans to create an NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, with the main component to be located at Mount Zion.

If everything goes as scheduled, UCSF officials hope to receive NCI's formal "Clinical" Cancer Center status by 1996 and "Comprehensive" status by 1997.

An important goal of the Center, according to Joseph Martin, dean of the UCSF School of Medicine, is to build bridges among the three major areas: basic science research, clinical care and epidemiology, and prevention and control.

The Center will merge cancer-related activities at all UCSF sites within the Schools of Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy, and the Graduate Division, and at all four affiliated hospitals — Moffitt/Long, Mount Zion, SFGH and the VAMC — as well as the UCSF Medical Education Program in Fresno.

Are Dental Implants for You?

Until now, the only options for people with missing teeth have been removable dentures or bridge work attached to remaining natural teeth. Today, however, there are dental implants. Made of pure titanium or a titanium alloy, dental implants are either screws or cylinder-shaped devices that are carefully placed into the jawbone usually by an oral and maxillofacial surgeon. The implants are left in the bone under the gums for three to six months to heal and to allow for sufficient anchoring. Then small metal posts — called abutments — are attached to the implants. Replacement teeth then are attached to the abutments. To see if you are a good candidate for dental implants, call 476-1316.

More News for You on the back page

What's happening

September/October
A bimonthly calendar of events at UCSF

Special Events

Sat., Sept. 19
Save-A-Life Saturday. CPR taught before SF Giants game against the LA Dodgers at Candlestick Park. Three sessions: 8:30, 9:30 & 10:30 a.m. Call 1-800-GIVE CPR.

Thurs., Sept. 24
Chancellor's Distinguished Lecturer for the Public Understanding of Science. "The Human Genome Project: A Challenge for Public Understanding." Sir Walter Bodmer, director-general, Imperial Cancer Research Fund, London. Cole Hall, 513 Parnassus. 3 p.m. Call 476-6399.

Fri. & Sat., Sept. 25 & 26
Winding Your Way Through DNA. DNA symposium for the educated lay public. Co-sponsored by UCSF School of Medicine & The Exploratorium. $20. Palace of Fine Arts Theater. (Conference is sold out, but there will be satellite transmissions at various sites. Call 476-5808.)

Tues., Sept. 29
Oktoberfest on Parnassus. Benefit for Pediatric Day Treatment Center. Sponsored by Hospitals Auxiliary. 6 p.m. Call 476-4906.

Thurs. & Fri., Oct. 8 & 9
4th Annual Faculty/Staff Art Show. Two-dimensional art on display. Millberry Conference Center, 500 Parnassus. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Wine & cheese reception on Thurs., Oct. 8, at 4 p.m.

Wed., Oct. 14
Music in the Library Recital Series. Soprano Jane Gitschier & the Bravo String Quartet perform Latin classical works. Lange Reading Rm., UCSF Library, 530 Parnassus. 5:30 p.m. Preceded by wine & cheese reception at 5 p.m.

Fri., Oct. 30
Gordon Tomkins Lecture & Concert. "Cosmic Connection: The Universe & You." Sandra M. Faber, astronomer, Lick Observatory, UC Santa Cruz. Jazz pianist Dennis Zeitlin & bassist David Friesen to perform. Cole Hall, 513 Parnassus. 3 p.m. Call Fran Dependahl at 476-8658.

Senior Health Education Program

Free lectures by UCSF staff geared to senior centers. Call 476-4394 for information.

Volunteer Orientation

Program to acquaint new & prospective volunteers with opportunities available in the Medical Center at UCSF. Held in Langley Porter Psychiatric Institute Auditorium, 401 Parnassus. For further information call 476-1196.

Tues., Sept. 8, 9-11 a.m.
Mon., Sept. 21, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Tues., Oct. 13, 9-11 a.m.

Breast Cancer Screening

Women can have low-cost mammograms — X-rays to screen for breast cancer — from a mobile van that travels to convenient Bay Area locations. The procedure takes approximately 20 minutes and costs $60. Your physician's approval is required, plus his/her full name, address & telephone number to assure results are mailed promptly. Appointments must be made at least one month to six weeks in advance. Find out when the van will be in your neighborhood by calling 476-2193 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. A $50 mammography screening also is available at the UCSF/Mount Zion Radiology Department. Call 885-7710.

Community Health Talks

A series of free lectures/discussions sponsored by Public Service Outreach Program. Held at UCSF-Laurel Heights (LH), 3333 California St., or the Parnassus campus (P) in Toland Hall, 533 Parnassus. 7-8:30 p.m. Free parking available. Call 476-3208 to register.

Thurs., Oct. 8
Menopause: Health Issues for Prime Time. (LH)

Thurs., Oct. 22
TB: New Face of an Old Disease. (P)

Women's Programs

Unless otherwise noted, events are sponsored by the UCSF Rape Prevention Education Program. For more information call 476-0400. To pre-register for workshops call 476-5222.

Sat., Sept. 26
Self Defense for Women. $35/$65. Studio 2, Millberry Fitness Cntr., 500 Parnassus. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sat., Oct. 17
WomenCycles II: A Conference About Menopause. Sponsored by Women's Resource Center. $5-$25. Cole Hall, 513 Parnassus. 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Tues., Oct. 27
After the Palm Beach Rape Trail: Patricia Bowman Speaks Out. Cole Hall, 513 Parnassus. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Great Expectations Programs for Parents

Sat., Oct. 3
Infant & Child Emergency Care. A class offered by the UCSF Birth Center. Rm. 326, Ambulatory Care Center, 400 Parnassus. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Call 476-MOMS for full class schedule, registration & information. Also call for details about San Francisco Mothers of Twins Club.

Art Exhibits

Sept. 1- Nov. 30
Paintings & Drawings by Juliane Poirier. On display at the Faculty/Alumni House, 745 Parnassus. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 476-4723. Opening reception for artist, Fri., Sept. 11. 5-8:30 p.m.

Hospitals Auxiliary Art Exhibit. On display in the lobby of Moffitt/Long Hospitals, 505 Parnassus, during September will be calligraphy, floral watercolors & African wildlife color photos. The October display will feature handmade paper collages. A portion of all proceeds benefits patients at the Medical Center at UCSF. To purchase or reserve work, visit the Auxiliary Office, Rm. 182, Moffitt Hospital, 505 Parnassus, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., or call 476-4906.

Outdoors Unlimited

Outdoors Unlimited is a cooperative resource center for outdoor recreation and adventure, serving both the UCSF campus and the general public. It provides skills training, equipment rentals, trip planning information and a place to meet others with similar interests. To receive a quarterly listing of trips and clinics, call 476-2078.

AIDS Programs

Sponsored by UCSF AIDS Health Project. For more information call 476-3902.

Thurs., Sept. 24
Living with HIV Public Forum. "The Future of Antibody Testing." Rm. 125, 1855 Folsom. 7-9 p.m.

Individual Risk Assessments & Referrals. By appointment. Free.

Positives Being Positive. Anonymous support groups in the community for people who have tested HIV positive but have not developed symptoms of AIDS.

Other Support Groups. Drop-in & six-week facilitated groups for men & women with AIDS or HIV infection, in a risk group or otherwise affected.

Campus Tours

All tours are free and take place at 1 p.m. on Tuesdays, September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 and October 6, 13, 20 & 27. Those interested should meet in the lobby of Medical Sciences, 513 Parnassus. For further tour information call 476-4394.

Cole Hall Cinema

Films are shown on Thursdays and Fridays in Cole Hall, 513 Parnassus. Prices run $2-$3.50. Movies subject to change. Call 476-2542.

Trekker Festival. See all six Star Trek movies during this three-day fesitval. For special prices call 476-2542.

Sept. 30
Star Trek: The Motion Picture. 5:45 p.m.
Star Trek II: The Wrath of Kahn. 8:30 p.m.

Oct. 1
Star Trek III: The Search for Spock. 5:45 p.m.
Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home. 8 p.m.

Oct.2
Star Trek V: The Final Frontier. 5:45 p.m.
Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country. 8 p.m.

Films for Fall.

Oct. 8 at 5:45 & 8:15 p.m.
Oct. 9 at 6:30 & 9 p.m.
The Player.

Oct. 15 at 5:30 & 8:15 p.m.
Oct. 16 at 6:30 & 9 p.m.
Patriot Games.

Oct. 22 at 5:45 & 8 p.m.
Oct. 23 at 6:30 & 8:45 p.m.
Sister Act.

Oct. 29 at 5:45 & 8:30 p.m.
Oct. 30 at 6:30 & 9:15 p.m.
Batman Returns.

Lakeside Senior Center Lectures

Free lectures held on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at Lakeside Presbyterian Church, corner of Eucalyptus & 19th Ave. Call 586-8600.

Sept. 2
Let's Settle This. Resolving conflicts with merchants, neighbors, families & others.

Sept. 23
Everyone Needs a Dentist.

Sept. 30
The Living Trust. Learn about this important document, wills and probate.

Oct. 14
Living Well with High Blood Pressure.

Oct. 21
Wheezing, Itching & Dustmites. Find out all about allergies.

Oct. 28
Cancer Prevention. Learn how diet can help reduce cancer risk.

Recreation & Fitness

It's time for fun in the fall. At Millberry Fitness Center you can choose from a wide variety of classes & workshops, including aerobics, dance, yoga & much more. Fall class registration for the public begins **Tues., Sept. 29.** Call 476-1115 for more information.

Institute of Healing Arts & Sciences

All talks are free and held on Fridays at noon in Rm. 721, Nursing Bldg., enter through 521 Parnassus. Workshops take place in Rm. 130, Clinical Sciences Bldg., 521 Parnassus. Call Marie Lehrer at 584-4416 for details & to register for workshops.

Sept. 11
Holotropic Breathwork: An Adventure in Self-Discovery. Workshop follows on Sat., Sept. 12. 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

Sept. 18
Being Yourself: The Practice of Presence.

Sept. 25
Discover the Natural Healing Art of Reiki: Awaken the Healer Within. Two-session workshop follows later that evening & Wed., Sept. 30, 6:30-10 p.m.

Oct. 2
Chiropractic: A Holistic Approach to Health Care.

Oct. 9
The Management of Chronic Disease with Holistic Means.

Oct. 16
Attracting & Understanding Your Soulmates.

Oct. 23
Predictive Vedic Astrology: "Mirror of the Soul."

Oct. 30
Transcendental Meditation & Higher States of Consciousness.

Multiple Helpers Outreach Network Support Group. For victims & survivors of violent trauma. Ages 15 & over. Meets on Tuesdays from 10 a.m.-noon and on Wednesdays from 1-3 p.m. in Rm. A222, Langley Porter Psychiatric Institute, 401 Parnassus; and from 7-10 p.m. in Rm. 517, Nursing Bldg., enter through 521 Parnassus. For further information call the helpline at 759-7923, 7 a.m.-10 p.m. daily.

Cancer Hotline

The UCSF Cancer Referral Service enables cancer patients to place just one telephone call and learn the names of UCSF doctors specializing in the kind of treatment they need. Call 1-800-888-5664.

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Brown Bag Lectures

A series of free lectures held weekly on Wednesdays at the Parnassus campus (P), Rm. 300, Health Sciences West, enter through 513 Parnassus; monthly on Thursdays in Rm. 125, UCSF-Mission Center Building (MCB), 1855 Folsom St.; and monthly on Tuesdays in Herbst Hall, Mount Zion Medical Center of UCSF (MZ), 1600 Divisadero. All lectures held at noon. For further information call 476-4394.

Sept. 2
Current Progress in Sports Medicine. (P)

Sept. 9
What Can Your Pharmacist Do for You & What You Can Do for Your Pharmacist. (P)

Sept. 15
Sleep Disorders of Shift Workers. (MZ)

Sept. 16
Spine & the Single Surgeon. When to say "yes" or "no" to back surgery.(P)

Sept. 23
Parkinson's Disease: The Shaking Palsy. (P)

Sept. 24
Back Problems Shouldn't Be a Pain. (MCB)

Sept. 30
He Said, She Said . . . What? The dynamics of male-female communication. (P)

Oct. 7
Colon Cancer: Bedside to Bench Top. (P)

Oct. 14
There is Always a New Twist. Creative approaches to problem solving & team building. (P)

Oct. 20
Bypass or the Balloon? How do heart patients know the best treatment? (MZ)

Oct. 21
The Pill, Pygmy Chimps & the Degas' Horse. Father of the birth control pill's autobiography. (P)

Oct. 22
UCSF: Today & Tomorrow. (MCB)

Oct. 28
Stress — Why Won't It Go Away? (P)

Blood Donation

Tues., Oct. 20
Campus Blood Drive. Blood may be given at the Millberry Conference Center, 500 Parnassus, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m., and the School of Nursing Bldg., 521 Parnassus, from 11:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

Look Good, Feel Better

This program provides expert advice on makeup, wigs & the use of turbans to people who have undergone chemotherapy or radiation and have lost or are losing their hair. Held the first Monday of each month in the 11 Long Solarium, Long Hospital, 505 Parnassus. Co-sponsored by the American Cancer Society and supported by the Donna Smith Fund. Call 476-1383.

UCSF
University of California, San Francisco
News and Public Information Services
513 Parnassus Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94143-0462

Irene was isolated, depressed and cried all the time until her daughter sought help from UCSF.

Give up hope.

That was the message. One doctor said the strokes that befell Irene Hannon would soon totally incapacitate her. Another doctor gave her six months to live.

Once a self-reliant woman with a pioneering spirit — she was born in a covered wagon on the plains of Saskatchewan — 85-year-old Irene was confined to a wheelchair and placed in a convalescent hospital. The hospital staff assisted Irene in her most basic personal tasks and fed her only soft foods. She received some physical therapy. But the doctor at the convalescent hospital determined that Irene had failed to respond. So the therapy ended.

Irene also felt isolated. She had almost nobody to talk to. Her roommates were unable to communicate, and most other patients kept to themselves. She felt depressed and cried all the time.

Irene's daughter, Doreen Burgin, saw that her mother was mentally alert, although becoming less alert as time passed, and that she tried to exercise on her own. Also, on visits to the Burgin home in Larkspur, Irene ate solid food.

Doreen Burgin believed that with proper care, her mother could improve. She decided to seek out that care and called UC San Francisco because her mother, a retired nurse, had once worked there.

Doreen was referred to the UCSF/Mount Zion Lakeside Senior Medical Center. The center offers an array of services designed to create a network of support for patients and families. Those services include primary medical care, referrals, counseling, support groups, transportation and educational programs such as free lectures and a health library.

Of most interest to Doreen Burgin was the Geriatric Assessment Program. The program uses a multidisciplinary approach to evaluate patients' cognitive abilities. It is one of only two such programs in San Francisco; the other is at UCSF's Memory Center.

The assessment team consists of a physician, neuropsychologist, nurse, podiatrist and social worker. Team members individually examine the patient and then compile a group evaluation and treatment plan. The patient and family, and the patient's physician, can use the plan as a blueprint for further care.

In Irene's case, the Lakeside team came to a far different conclusion than its counterparts elsewhere. "We thought Irene had the capacity to respond to therapy and to become more functional," says Anya Schratz, the team's social worker.

As a result, the team recommended intensive physical therapy, followed by senior day care. Team members also discovered that one prescribed medication was making Irene depressed, deepening the social isolation she felt.

With less than a month of physical therapy at a rehabilitation center, Irene was out of her wheelchair and using a walker. A couple of weeks later, she left the center for her daughter's house.

Now she walks on a four-legged cane. She dresses herself. She takes care of her personal needs. She even helps out around the house, chopping vegetables for dinner or setting the table. She's much more alert and not depressed. She attends senior day care, where her physical therapy continues and where she socializes with other people.

Irene's story, though dramatic, is not uncommon.

"Elderly patients are often not thoroughly assessed, or not looked at in terms of improving their quality of life," says Janis Olvarado, Lakeside's administrative director. "Sometimes it's a matter of changing medications, or attending a day program or getting some help at home."

There's no doubt in Doreen Burgin's mind that Lakeside's Geriatric Assessment Program has, in a very real sense, restored her mother's life. "The change has been incredible."

— Marshall Krantz

(For further information about the UCSF/Mount Zion Lakeside Senior Medical Center's Geriatric Assessment Program and other elderly support programs, call Janis Olvarado at 586-8600. Also see calendar item for lecture series.)

Irene Hannon at home with her daughter Doreen Burgin.

Tom Wachs

To Our Neighbors

September/October 1992

California Spends $7.6 Billion a Year on Smoking

UCSF at Transplant Games

Keeping Seniors Out of Convalescent Homes

UCSF

University of California, San Francisco
513 Parnassus Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94143-0462

More News for You

Knowing The Risks of Prenatal Diagnosis

Many women over the age of 35 today choose prenatal diagnosis to determine if their unborn children have any genetic disorders. Techniques range from ultrasound and amniocentesis to transcervical and transabdominal chorionic villus sampling (CVS). All have varying degrees of risk.

Physicians need to understand all of the procedures and the risk factors associated with each in order to minimize pregnancy loss, says Mitchell Golbus, director of the UCSF Prenatal Detection Program.

He explains that the learning curve for transcervical CVS, for example, is considerably longer than for the other procedures.

During transcervical CVS, a flexible catheter is passed through the vagina and cervix into the uterus. Guided by ultrasound imaging, the physician then removes a tiny tissue sample from the chorionic villi, which are tiny fingerlike projections on the outer layer of the amniotic sac.

Analyzing data of more than 7,000 women who underwent the procedure at nine medical centers across the country, Golbus and colleagues found that the most significant risk factors for pregnancy loss after transcervical CVS are history of spontaneous abortion, spotting or bleeding during the pregnancy prior to CVS and placental position. A placenta located in the area of the uterus farthest from the cervix or on either side of the uterus presents the highest risk of loss.

Women may want to select transabdominal CVS (where a needle is inserted through the abdominal wall) rather than transcervical CVS, says Golbus. "Loss rates can be minimized by being able to provide both procedures."

For further information on prenatal diagnosis, call a UCSF genetic counselor at 476-4080. For specific information on CVS, call 731-1070.

UCSF, UC Davis Join in Presidio Plan

UCSF and UC Davis have submitted a joint letter to the National Park Service to explore converting the Letterman Army Hospital complex in S.F.'s Presidio military base into an international center for the study of environment and health. The center would be dedicated to protecting the environment and improving health, possibly with special attention to the needs of children.

The concept is in the early stages of discussion and could be developed only after appropriate academic review and consideration by the UC Regents.

Submitted in response to a Park Service request for potential tenants for the Presidio, the letter describes the concept as fully consistent with the themes projected for the future use of the Presidio.

The International Institute for Environment and Health would bring together scientists working in different arenas to study critical issues facing the world in the post-Cold War era. Researchers would focus on recent advances in basic biomedical sciences to find new methods of treating disease and to develop sustainable urban environments capable of providing adequate food, water, and fuels for the growing number of people in the world's cities.

Laurel Heights Decision Appealed

Lawyers for UCSF have asked the California Supreme Court to reverse a recent court order which requires the campus to recirculate the latest Environmental Impact Report (EIR), which details plans for the Laurel Heights site. The lawyers argue that the order was not based on any clear legal standard.

The Supreme Court is being asked to review a May 12 ruling by the First District Court of Appeals in San Francisco. In that decision, two members of the three-justice Court of Appeals upheld a challenge to the EIR filed by the Laurel Heights Improvement Association, which has been opposing UCSF's plan for nearly six years. The Court of Appeals ruling concerned only the narrow procedural question of whether the final EIR was required to be recirculated for additional public comment, not the content of the EIR. For further information call 476-3206.

Strong as You Used to Be?

At age 60, most people are about half as strong as they were at age 35. This weakness may cause older people to lose mobility, functional capacity and independence. If you are over 70 years old, you may be eligible to participate in a study to determine if growth hormone treatment can improve strength and muscle size in people your age. For further information call Margaret Kagawa at 750-1291.

UCSF

University of California, San Francisco